Safe drinking water in rural areas

3493. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programme undertaken/proposed to be undertaken to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether Government have also taken into reckoning the fact that most of the rural areas are affected by floods every year for months together like in the coastal districts of Orissa who are deprived of drinking water and face epidemics; and

(c) what special steps Government have taken or propose to take to save human lives by providing permanent arrangements for drinking water during flood and cyclone in Orissa and other such prone areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The State Governments implement the programme under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their own individual rural water supply schemes.

The National Agenda for Governance of the Government, *inter-alia,* envisages providing access to drinking water facilities to all rural habitations in five years time. As Drinking Water Supply is a State subject, and the programmes to provide drinking water facilities are implemented by the State Governments, all the States/UTs were requested to prepare an action plan to provide drinking water facilities to all rural habitations in five years time. All the States/UTs except Orissa, Manipur, A&N Islands, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have prepared their respective action plans and it could be implemented successfully subject to availability of funds.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation to the State under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). In addition to CRF, assistance is also considered from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity in accordance with the set procedure.

As per the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, 14 out of

the 30 districts in the State which come under the coastal belt are mostly flood prone. During floods, prompt action is taken by the State Government to repair and restore the drinking water supply systems and repeatedly disinfect the sources inundated by submergence. As a permanent measure, the State Government is considering a proposal for installation of 39 rural piped water supply schemes, with an estimated outlay of Rs. 107 crore, in the flood prone areas of Orissa with World Bank assistance.

Scarcity hit districts in some States

3494. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat which have been declared as scarcity hit districts by Government this year;

(b) what amount of Central assistance has been sought by the State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat as relief for such districts;

(c) what are Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the proposal submitted by the State Governments in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have intimated that seven districts, namely, Badwani, Dhar, Jhabua, Hoshangabad, Khargone, Raipur and Raisen have been affected by drought. Similarly, the Government of Gujarat have intimated that 17 districts, namely, Jamnagar, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Surendernagar, Porbandar, Banaskantha, Patan, Kutch, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Junagadh, Amreli, Sabarkantha, Dahod, Mehsana, Kheda and Ahmedabad have been affected by drought and that four districts, namely, Banaskantha, Jamnagar, Kutch and Patan have been severely affected. The Government of Maharashtra have not sent any report on districts affected by drought.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat have sought an amount of Rs. 722.16 crore as Central assistance for drought relief. In case of Maharashtra, no memorandum has been received from the State Government seeking Central assistance.

(c) and (d) The details of Central assistance provided to Gujarat and